<center>**REMARKS**</center>

In the Office Action mailed May, 4th, 2006, the Examiner took the following action: (1) Rejected Claims 1-6 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §101, (2) rejected Claims 1-6, 18-20, and 33-34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Beaven (US 2004/0186762), and (3) rejected Claims 7-8, 21-23, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Beaven in view of Hughes (US 5893074). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. §101 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-6 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as failing to produce a useful, concrete and tangible result.

Claims 1-6

Applicants respectfully note that amended claim 1 recites, in relevant part, a method comprising "displaying a status of the series of collaborative actions taken in each of the tasks, wherein the status of each task may be simultaneously viewed by one or more of the plurality of parties, and wherein displaying the status includes: indicating two or more tasks including at least one of indicating whether a part has not started, is in work, or has been completed; indicating a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work; displaying a total number of actions in each of the tasks; displaying a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks; and for each task, displaying a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to a percentage of the assigned actions completed for each of the tasks."

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-quoted portion of claim 1 (and claims 2-6 depending from claim 1) properly recite a useful, concrete and tangible result, and therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

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<u>Claims 18-20</u>

Similarly, claim 18 recites in relevant part a system including "a display component configured to display a status of the actions taken in each of the tasks to each party, including: a first portion configured to display a total number of actions in each of the tasks; a second portion configured to display a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks; a third portion configured to indicate a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work; a fourth portion configured to display a total number of actions in each of the tasks; and a fifth portion configured to display a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks, the fifth portion being further configured to display a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to a percentage of the assigned actions completed for each of the tasks."

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-quoted portion of claim 18 (and claims 19-20 depending from claim 18) properly recite a useful, concrete and tangible result, and therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

U.S.C 35 §102(E) REJECTIONS

Claims 1-6, 18-20, and 33-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Beaven (US 2004/0186762).

BEAVEN (US 2004/0186762)

Beaven teaches a management-style project system for use in structuring goals and driving managerial decisions. Beaven teaches a system that contains goals, which are made of up tasks. Tasks are portioned out among individuals, machines, or groups and those entities then

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have access to input information and progress reports about their assigned tasks. The progress of a goal is indicated by the number of total assigned tasks completed. Forms and hierarchical displays are used to both convey information to users and to accept input from users.

CLAIMS 1-6

As amended, claim 1 recites:

1. A method, comprising:

collaboratively performing a number of tasks by a plurality of parties, wherein each task requires a series of collaborative actions;

recording the series of collaborative actions into a script database;

displaying a status of the series of collaborative actions taken in each of the tasks, wherein the status of each task may be simultaneously viewed by one or more of the plurality of parties, and

wherein displaying the status includes:

indicating two or more tasks including at least one of indicating whether a part has not started, is in work, or has been completed;

indicating a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work;

displaying a total number of actions in each of the tasks;

displaying a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks; and

for each task, displaying a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to a percentage of the assigned actions completed for each of the tasks. (emphasis added)

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Applicants respectfully assert that Beaven does not teach, imply, or fairly suggest the method recited in claim 1. Specifically, Beaven fails to teach or suggest a method that includes *"indicating two or more tasks including at least one of indicating whether a part has not started, is in work, or has been completed; indicating a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work; displaying a total number of actions in each of the tasks; displaying a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks; and for each task, displaying a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to a percentage of the assigned actions completed for each of the tasks."* The Examiner admits that Beaven fails to disclose *"indicating a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work"* (see Office Action, paragraph 9). Beaven is also silent with respect to *"displaying a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks; and for each task, displaying a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to a percentage of the assigned actions completed for each of the tasks"* as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over Beaven at least due to their dependency on claim 1 and also due to additional limitations recited in those claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-6 as being anticipated by Beaven.

Similarly, amended claim 18 recites:

18. A time management system for reducing the overall time required for more than one party to collaborate on a number of tasks, said system comprising:

 a script database;

 a recording component configured to record a series of collaborative actions of one or more tasks into said script database, the one or more tasks being collaboratively performed by more than one party; and

 a display component configured to display a status of the actions taken in each of the tasks to each party, including:

  a first portion configured to display a total number of actions in each of the tasks;

  a second portion configured to display a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks;

  a third portion configured to indicate a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work;

  a fourth portion configured to display a total number of actions in each of the tasks; and

  a fifth portion configured to display a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks, the fifth portion being further configured to display a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to a percentage of the assigned actions completed for each of the tasks. (emphasis added).

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Applicants respectfully submit that Beaven does not teach, imply, or fairly suggest the system recited in claim 18. Specifically, Beaven fails to teach or suggest a system that includes a display component having "*a first portion configured to display a total number of actions in each of the tasks; a second portion configured to display a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks; a third portion configured to indicate a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work; a fourth portion configured to display a total number of actions in each of the tasks; and a fifth portion configured to display a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks, the fifth portion being further configured to display a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to a percentage of the assigned actions completed for each of the tasks.*" As noted by the Examiner, Beaven fails to disclose "*a third portion configured to indicate a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work*" (see Office Action, paragraph 9). Beaven is also silent with respect to "*a fifth portion configured to display a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks, the fifth portion being further configured to display a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to a percentage of the assigned actions completed for each of the tasks*" as recited in claim 18. Therefore, claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 19-20 depend from claim 18 and are allowable over Beaven at least due to their dependency on claim 18 and also due to additional limitations recited in those claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 18-20 as being anticipated by Beaven.

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Similarly, amended claim 33 recites:

33. A computer readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method, the method comprising:

recording a plurality of tasks that are collaboratively performed between parties, wherein each of said tasks includes a series of collaborative actions;

recording the series of collaborative actions into a script;

displaying a status of the actions taken in each of tasks including:

>*indicating two or more tasks including at least one of indicating whether a part has not started, is in work, or has been completed;*

>*indicating a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work;*

>*displaying a total number of actions in each of the tasks; and*

>*displaying a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks, including displaying a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to the percentage for each of the tasks; and*

providing immediate access to each party to allow viewing of the status of each task, thereby reducing the overall time required for the parties to perform the collaborative tasks. (emphasis added).

As described more fully above, Beaven does not teach, imply, or fairly suggest the computer readable medium recited in claim 33. Specifically, Beaven fails to teach or suggest a computer readable medium having instructions that perform a method that includes *"displaying a status of the actions taken in each of tasks including: indicating two or more tasks including at least one of indicating whether a part has not started, is in work, or has been completed; indicating a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work; displaying a total*

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number of actions in each of the tasks; and displaying a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks, including displaying a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to the percentage for each of the tasks."

The Examiner admits that Beaven fails to disclose "*indicating a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work*" (see Office Action, paragraph 9). Beaven is also silent with respect to "*displaying a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks; and for each task, displaying a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to a percentage of the assigned actions completed for each of the tasks*" as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 33 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 34 depends from claim 33 and are allowable over Beaven at least due to its dependency on claim 33 and also due to additional limitations recited in those claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 33-34 as being anticipated by Beaven.

U.S.C 35 §103(A) REJECTIONS

Claims 7-8, 21-23, and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Beaven in view of Hughes (US 5893074).

HUGHES ET AL. (US 5,893,074)

Hughes teaches a schedule-control system for managing projects and tasks between suppliers/contractors and receivers. Hughes describes scenarios of dispute resolution, task progression, and monitoring. Contractors are given access to the system via an internet portal and can use the system to input their current status on production and testing. Then a relational database is used to computer the status of the project based on statuses of deliverables.

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Claim 7 depends from claim 1 (and claim 8 has been canceled). In relevant part, claim 7 recites a method that includes *"indicating two or more tasks including at least one of indicating whether a part has not started, is in work, or has been completed; indicating a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work; displaying a total number of actions in each of the tasks; displaying a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks; and for each task, displaying a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to a percentage of the assigned actions completed for each of the tasks."*

Applicants respectfully submit that Hughes fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Beaven, and therefore, claim 7 is allowable over Beaven in view of Hughes. More specifically, neither Beaven or Hughes teaches or fairly suggests a method that includes *"displaying a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks; and for each task, displaying a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to a percentage of the assigned actions completed for each of the tasks"* as recited in claim 7 (via its dependency on claim 1). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 as being unpatentable over Beaven in view of Hughes.

In addition, Applicants respectfully assert that Hughes also does not teach, imply, or fairly suggest indicating a last action. The Examiner refers to Hughes Col 4, L 62-63 and Col 9, L61-63 as evidence that since a user may be 'in progress' on a task, that it implies they are shown the last action completed. Applicants respectfully submit that simply showing the amount of completion does not mean a user is shown the last action. Hughes' teaching of 'in progress' is vague and could mean that the task is in progress at any portion of the task, and does not teach or fairly suggest indicating a last action as recited in Applicants' claim 7.

Applicants refer Examiner to Applicants' Fig 4 for an example of the display showing both percentage of task completion and outline of actions. Applicants submit that Hughes does

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not teach a display where a user would be shown last completed action and at the same time be given information as to what that action might be. The two scenarios are not equivalent and so Applicants respectfully submit that because of this Hughes does not teach applicants' last action completed.

Applicants also assert that the display of last action in all tasks is non-obvious in light of Hughes as the display of last action (which may or may not be accompanied by some sort of descriptive information about the last action) gives additional info about a part that may not be needed or desired. Hughes' intent is to link contractors and producers with project management in order to meet delivery deadlines on various parts. However the system of Hughes **does not** give out any information that would allow the users to deduce what phase or deliverable was last completed in all tasks. Because, unlike Applicants' invention, Hughes' users are not collaborating as partners but as teams of competitors. Because of this difference in collaboration the information presented to each user would be much more tailored and inflexible then Applicants' system. And since this difference in users directly affects the information sharing and openness of the system Applicants assert that the two have different audiences.

Therefore, for this additional reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 as being unpatentable over Beaven in view of Hughes.

CLAIMS 21-23

Claims 21-22 depend from claim 18 (and claim 23 has been canceled). In relevant part, claims 21 and 22 recite a system that includes a display component having *"a first portion configured to display a total number of actions in each of the tasks; a second portion configured to display a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks; a third portion configured to indicate a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work; a fourth*

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portion configured to display a total number of actions in each of the tasks; and a fifth portion configured to display a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks, the fifth portion being further configured to display a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to a percentage of the assigned actions completed for each of the tasks."

Applicants respectfully submit that Hughes fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Beaven, and therefore, claims 21 and 22 are allowable over Beaven in view of Hughes. More specifically, neither Beaven or Hughes teaches or fairly suggests a system that includes a display component having *"a third portion configured to indicate a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work; a fourth portion configured to display a total number of actions in each of the tasks; and a fifth portion configured to display a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks, the fifth portion being further configured to display a bar graph having a shaded portion corresponding to a percentage of the assigned actions completed for each of the tasks"* as recited in claims 21 and 22 (via their dependency on claim 18). Also, as described more fully above, Applicants respectfully assert that Hughes also does not teach, imply, or fairly suggest *a third portion configured to indicate a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work* as asserted by the Examiner, since an indication of 'in progress' is not necessarily an indication of a last action completed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 21-22 as being unpatentable over Beaven in view of Hughes.

CLAIM 35

Claim 35 depends from claim 33 and is allowable over Beaven in view of Hughes for the reasons set forth above. Specifically, neither Beaven or Hughes teaches or suggests a computer readable medium having instructions that perform a method including *""displaying a percentage of the number of actions completed for each of the tasks; and for each task, displaying a bar*

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graph having a shaded portion corresponding to a percentage of the assigned actions completed for each of the tasks" as recited in claim 35 (via its dependency on claim 33). Also, as described more fully above, Applicants respectfully assert that Hughes also does not teach, imply, or fairly suggest *indicating a last action completed within each of the tasks that are in work k* as asserted by the Examiner, since an indication of 'in progress' is not necessarily an indication of a last action completed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 35 as being unpatentable over Beaven in view of Hughes.

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CONCLUSION

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Applicants respectfully submit pending claims 1-7, 18-22, and 33-35 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections, allowance, and passage through issuance. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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